

Message Text

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14

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAM-01 IO-11 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 /078 W

----- 044216

R 100401Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5991

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

UNCLAS TOKYO 0377

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CH, JA

SUBJECT: REACTION TO CHOU EN-LAI'S DEATH

REF: TOKYO 0366

1. TORRENT OF CONDOLENCES AND MEDIA COVERAGE OF DEATH OF CHOU EN-LAI CONTINUES. EDITORIALS IN ALL MAJOR PAPERS PRAISED CHOU'S ABILITIES, EMPHASIZED HIS CENTRAL ROLE IN THE PRC'S DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN POLICIES, AND EULOGIZED THE FORMER PREMIER AS AN UNDERSTANDING FRIEND OF JAPAN WHO WOULD BE MISSED. PM MIKI ABANDONED HIS FERVENT HOPE TO ATTEND THE FUNERAL OR VISIT PEKING TO EXPRESS CONDOLENCES. HE JOINED OTHER JAPANESE LEADERS IN ISSUING STATEMENTS OF REGRET OVER CHOU'S DEATH. MIKI SAID CHOU WAS NOT ONLY A GREAT LEADER OF CHINA BUT ALSO ONE OF THE LEADING STATESMEN OF THE WORLD. LOSS WOULD BE WORLD'S AS WELL AS CHINA'S. MIKI PAID TRIBUTE TO CHOU'S ROLE IN SINO-JAPANESE RELATIONS AND REVEALED THAT HE ONLY RECENTLY SENT A MESSAGE TO PREMIER CHOU EXPRESSING THE HOPE THAT THE SINO-JAPANESE PEACE FRIENDSHIP TREATY COULD BE CONCLUDED WHILE CHOU WAS IN GOOD HEALTH. MIKI PLEDGED TO MAKE FULL EFFORTS WITH CHAIRMAN MAO AND CHOU'S SUCCESSORS TO CONCLUDE THE TREATY.

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2. GAIMUSHO COMMENTED TO PRESS AS IN REFTTEL BUT ALSO EXPRESSED THE

OPENING THAT WITH THE PASSING OF THE PRAGMATIC LEADER, CHINA MIGHT
TAKE A LESS FLEXIBLE STANCE ON SOME ISSUES SUCH AS THJQVDZANTI-
HEGEMONY CLAUSE" IN PFT. TOUGH ATTITUDE TOWARD SOVIETS IS EXPECTED
TO CONTINUE.
HODGSON

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NNN

Message Attributes

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